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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

The purpose of this memo is to announce that the Arizona Department of Transportation-Public Transportation Division is accepting applications for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5304 funds. This memo sets forth the program purpose and requirements, project and applicant eligibility, and guidelines for submitting an application.

Program Purpose and Requirements

The FTA Section 5304 Program provides financial assistance to states for statewide rural transit planning and other technical assistance activities (including supplementing the technical assistance program provided through the Metropolitan Planning program), planning support for non-urbanized areas, research, development and demonstration projects, fellowships for training in the public transportation field, university research, and human resource development.

FTA Section 5304 funding is available annually through the appropriation to the State of Arizona in SAFETEA-LU authorization from Congress. The current FTA Section 5304 funding application period calls for three years worth of projects for fiscal years FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010. Single or multi-year transit planning projects are encouraged and should be described within the application. This first round of projects received within this application period will enable the State in determining long range transit planning needs and assist in the prioritization of FTA Section 5304 funding received by the State. The annual call for projects and application process will enable public bodies to refine existing projects or identify new projects as well.

A limit of \$30,000 is available per project. However there may be exceptions to this limit based on project merit. Notice and award of FTA Section 5304 funding will occur in July/August of each calendar year. Applicants are encouraged to apply for new projects or scope modifications to existing projects annually.

Funding is made available on an 80% federal/20% local matching ratio. Local match commitment is cash/hard match. Overmatching by the public body (e.g. counties and municipalities), Tribal Governments or related Tribal Communities is encouraged and likely required to facilitate the total cost of the planning project.

Upon award, project funding is based on reimbursement by the State to the public body, Tribal Governments or related Tribal Communities.

Consultant assistance to support an awarded project may be obtained through 'on-call' consultant assistance via the Arizona Department of Transportation existing contracts. Additionally, a public body,

Tribal Government or related Tribal Community may seek services independent of the Arizona Department of Transportation consultant process. In both cases, once funding is awarded, an intergovernmental agreement that establishes funding commitment will be required.

Project Eligibility

Per FTA regulations, eligible planning activities include but are not limited to:

- Studies relating to management, operations, capital requirements, innovative financing opportunities, security and economic feasibility of transit projects;
- Evaluation of previously funded projects;
- Similar work or activities preliminary to the construction of or improved operation of facilities and equipment including "livability" features such as improved pedestrian and bicycle access to the station and shops and community services in the station area, incorporating arts and artistic design in stations and surrounding areas, and other improvements that enhance the usability and community-friendliness of the transit system environment;
- Systems analysis;
- Development of 20-year transportation plans;
- Corridor/systems planning studies;
- Analyses of social, economic, and environmental factors related to travel and transportation;
- Air quality planning, and conformity planning;
- Public involvement in the transit/transportation planning process;
- Multimodal facilities planning;
- Joint development planning; and
- Computer hardware and software needed to support planning work.

These funds are not available for operating expenses of public transit systems.

Public bodies, Tribal Governments or related Tribal Communities wishing to suggest a statewide project or activity to be carried out by ADOT are encouraged. Projects which update existing or create new regional transit plans are eligible. Also encouraged are projects which conduct local activities such as: research, local transit operating plans, feasibility reviews, transit implementation plans, demonstration projects (may include regional transit connector service), training programs, strategic planning or site development planning.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants for rural public transportation planning funds include local public bodies, Tribal Governments or related Tribal Communities.

Rural public transportation planning projects must be for service areas out of 'urbanized areas' as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. At present, the Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma, Flagstaff and Prescott urbanized areas are excluded from FTA Section 5304 rural public transportation planning program eligibility. However, projects in the rural portions of Maricopa, Pima, Yuma, Coconino, and Yavapai counties may still be eligible for funding.

Guidelines for Submitting an Application

The process for applying for FTA Section 5304 funds is relatively simple and primarily involves the completion of a narrative in response to a short list of questions. Applicants should be able to do this successfully in no more than two pages. What is most important is to fully explain the nature of the proposed project, its goals and objectives, purpose, beneficiaries and cost justification.

Applications for FTA Section 5304 funds are due at the Arizona Department of Transportation no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, August 31, 2007.**

The grant application is available at <http://www.azdot.gov/PTD/Section5304.asp>

LATE APPLICATIONS AND THE SIGNATURE PAGE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

All public bodies, Tribal Governments and communities should deliver hard copy application to:

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Public Transportation Division
206 S. 17th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone: (602) 712-6790, Fax: (602) 712-3046
E-mail: MCarpenter@azdot.gov

A copy of the application should also be sent to the appropriate representative of the Council of Government (COG) or Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Please see application to determine appropriate COG or MPO contact.